

In the Specification

Please substitute the following amended paragraph for the paragraph beginning on page 2, line 8:

While cross-Fab backup within a fabrication system is clearly desired, it is not routinely practiced due to great difficulty in coordinating capacity of independent fabrication facilities. Cross-Fab backup is presently planned and executed manually in the conventional fabrication system, which is an inefficient and mistake-prone process. Conventionally, planning for backup operation starts only when a tool bottleneck occurs. At the beginning of the backup planning stage, the backup demand of the bottlenecked tool is calculated according to WIP (work-in-process) profile and capacity of the bottlenecked tool. After the backup demand is determined, it is then determined whether a backup operation will be executed. Considerable communication is required when querying other Fabs for capable of providing backup support to the bottlenecked tool. Moreover, because backup planning starts only when a tool bottleneck occurs, latent tool bottlenecks are concealed. As a result, the backup operation cannot be arranged in advance, and the throughput of the Fab will be seriously hindered by the bottleneck.